

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 060910Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2753

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 1488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS

SUBJECT: FONMIN TELLS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY US TROOPS TO
REMAIN IN ROK

REF: SEOUL 1420

1. ROK PRESS MARCH 5 AND 6 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
FONMIN KIM DONG-JO'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ON US TROOP COMMITMENT TO ROK. KIM'S
REMARKS CAME IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING OF NDP ASSEMBLYMAN
CHONG IL-HYONG.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT CHONG EXPRESSED CONCERN AT ANY REDUCTION
OF US FORCES AT TIME WHEN NORTH HAS BUILT UP MILITARY STRENGTH.
CHONG ALSO QUOTED AS ASKING IF ROKG PLANS TO NEGOTIATE
REVISION OF KOREA-US MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY IN VIEW OF EVENTUAL
US TROOP WITHDRAWAL.

3. IN REPLY FONMIN KIM MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: THE
QUESTION OF TROOP REDUCTION WILL BE DETERMINED THROUGH PRIOR
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE ROK AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED;
THE US HAS NO PLANS TO WITHDRAW TROOPS NOW; THE CONCEPT OF
REPLACEMENT OF TROOPS BY A "MOBILE RESERVE" AS A "POSSIBLE
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OPTION" FOR THE FUTURE. ON QUESTION MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY

KIM REPORTEDLY SAID THAT RENEGOTIATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT DUE TO CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN US CONGRESS.

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT KIM SAID US FORCES IN KOREA WILL NOT BE REDUCED DURING FY75. GOVERNMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA HERALD AND CHOSUN ILBO INCLUDED THIS REMARK IN HEADLINES. OTHER PAPERS WERE LESS SPECIFIC, BASING HEADLINES ON KIM'S COMMENT THAT "THE US STATE DEPT EXPLAINED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL US STANCE TOWARD THE STATIONING OF THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES IN KOREA NOR HAS IT ANY PLAN TO PULL OUT US TROOPS FROM KOREA NOW."
HABIB

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